



Documentary Heritage Program

Directory of Repositories of Historical Documents in the Capital District of New York

Fourth Edition
2006

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Foreword
to the Fourth Edition

Documentary Heritage Program

The Documentary Heritage Program was established by the New York State Archives and Records Administration to address the needs of historical records programs across New York State. According to the New York Documentary Heritage Law, an historical records program is “any deliberate, organized program to collect, hold, care for, and make available historical records, including identifying, appraising, arranging, describing, and referencing them and using them in exhibitions and other public education programs.”

New York has hundreds of such programs in historical societies, libraries, museums, and a wide variety of other settings. In addition, many institutions and organizations have established archival programs to identify and care for their own archival records. These programs hold records of immense research value. The sound administration of these programs is the reason for the establishment of the DHP.

The Capital District Library Council (CDLC) DHP serves the counties of Albany, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington.

Directory

This fourth edition of the Directory is composed of institutions that provide public access to their historical records, whether during regular business hours or by appointment. However, many of the repositories have some restrictions on the use of their material.

The Directory includes listings from a wide variety of repositories in the region, including churches, colleges and universities, historical societies, libraries, museums, organizations, and others. The holdings of the repositories listed range from hundreds of boxes on many different topics to a box or two on one particular town or topic.

Repository information often changes. We strongly recommend that researchers contact a repository before visiting.

The Directory provides information on over 175 repositories, but it is by no means a complete list of institutions that hold historical records in the Capital District. Many municipal historians hold records pertaining to their city, village, or town. There are also hundreds of local and state government offices that hold public records that may be of interest to genealogists and other researchers. There are likely many more small repositories of which the DHP is not yet aware.

The CDLC DHP would like to thank the repositories that provided the information for this Directory. Any person or group that is listed in this Directory is asked to verify the information given, and report any corrections, updates, changes to the CDLC DHP, Susan D’Entremont, Regional Archivist (sd’entremont@cdlc.org or 518-438-2500). CDLC also welcomes information about other repositories of historical documents in the CDLC region that were not included in this Directory.

CDLC DHP extends special thanks to Peter Runge who collected, verified and entered the information in this directory; and to Christine Walker who succeeded in getting the information in a format that works in both a print and online environment. Both worked tirelessly and cheerfully on jobs that could at times be tedious and frustrating. It is because of them that we are able to produce this Directory.

This Directory is also available on (and may be printed from) CDLC’s DHP webpage at http://www.cdlc.org/Programs_And_Services/dhp/dhpdirectory.shtml